

Streptococcal Disease, Invasive, Group A (GAS)

Background. GAS is a bacterium often found in the throat and on the skin.[^] Most infections are relatively mild, but on rare occasions infection can be severe and even life threatening. GAS disease may occur when bacteria “invade” parts of the body where they usually are not found; such as the blood, muscle, or the lungs. About 9,400 cases of GAS occurred in the United States in 1999.

[^] CDC > Division of Bacterial and Mycotic Diseases > Disease Information. Health Topics A to Z.

Reporting. In Missouri, GAS has been a reportable disease for over five years. Cases are reported to the Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services (DHSS) through the Missouri Health Surveillance Information System (MOHSIS). Based on a combination of clinical and laboratory criteria, cases are assigned a status of confirmed, probable, suspect, etc. Only confirmed and probable cases are presented here.

Nationally, GAS is a reportable disease. However, GAS only became reportable in 1995, and annual data did not become available until 1999. Cases are reported to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) through the National Notifiable Diseases Surveillance System (NNDSS). NNDSS data for 2003 was not available at the time of analysis.

